

The US XMM-Newton Guest Observer Facility (GOF) just completed the 2008 NASA Senior Review, which examined the mission's successes in the past two years and continued funding through 2012. Despite the fact that the satellite itself is in good health, with all instruments operating normally, and a vast amount of meaningful science being done with XMM data by American scientists, the results were extremely disappointing. We believe that Guest Observer funding for FY09 will continue within guidelines, but pending any possible changes in NASA budgets, there will be no GO funding for FY10. While the intent of the panel is not completely clear, it did not specifically recommend eliminating GO funding. However, due to XMM's relatively low ranking in the Senior Review, and the fiscal constraints the Division and the MO&DA program are facing, they were unable to recommend maintaining the XMM GO funding at its current level. The scientific report to the Senior Review is available at http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/FTP/xmm/doc/senior_review/xmm_sr_science_2008.pdf

Recent notable accomplishments include the release in August 2007 of the XMM Serendipitous Source Catalog (Second Version), or 2XMM, which contains 247,000 detections (192,000 unique sources) drawn from 3491 [XMM-Newton](#) EPIC observations that were public by May 1st 2007 and covers a sky area of 330 square degrees. It is the largest X-ray source catalog ever produced, containing almost twice as many discrete sources as either the ROSAT survey or pointed catalogs. The catalog includes the positions and fluxes in 5 narrow energy bands, plus an additional 4 broad bands. This catalog should be useful to XMM-Newton observers who are planning new observing proposals.

The latest version of the Science Analysis System (SAS), 7.1.2, was released in February 2008. In addition to patching several bugs in v. 7.1.0, it implements a few changes, the largest of which is a change in the default parameter settings of the basic EPIC pipeline tasks; this requires that the CCF be updated. Users of the SAS are reminded to double-check their CCF directory when updating their version of SAS to avoid potential problems. The US XMM GOF has recently released a new version of the ABC Guide to go along with the new version of SAS. It is available in html, pdf, and ps formats at <http://xmm.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/xmm/abc/>.

The results of the AO7 Budget Process are expected in May/June 2008, and the anticipated dates for the AO8 XMM-Newton proposals have been announced. The announcement of opportunity is expected to be released on August 26, 2008, with a due date of October 10, 2008 at 12:00 UT.

The XMM-Newton Science Operations Centre has organized a meeting for May 27-30, 2008, in Granada, Spain, entitled "The X-Ray Universe 2008". A broad range of topics in high energy astrophysics will be covered, and results from Chandra, Suzaku, and XMM-Newton, as well as other current missions, will be highlighted.

For more information about XMM-Newton, please visit the US Guest Observer Facility pages at <http://xmm.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.